Claims

1. A method of controlling a first apparatus, which is operatively responsive to first control signals from a first remote control device, said method comprising the following steps:
- receiving said first control signals;
- receiving first reference control signals from a storage medium, said first reference control signals corresponding to said first control signals;
- comparing said first control signals and said first reference control signals; and
- operatively controlling said first apparatus in response to said first control signals when said first control signals and said first reference control signals equal each other;
characterised in that,
said method further comprises the following steps, which allows said first remote control device and said first apparatus to operatively control one or more second apparatus that are otherwise operatively responsive to respective second control signals from respective one or more second remote control devices:
- providing said first remote control device with additional operational functions, and corresponding third control signals, that respectively correspond to operational functions of said one or more second apparatus, said additional operational functions and third control signals being either selectively and/or permanently available;
- receiving and storing in said first apparatus, as part of an initialisation procedure and either in response to a request and/or as part of a predetermined sequence, said second control signals that have corresponding third control signals, said received second control signals being stored as second reference control signals in said storage medium;
- receiving said third control signals from said first remote control device;
- receiving second reference control signals from said storage

medium;
- comparing said third control signals and said second reference control signals; and
- operatively controlling, by means of said second reference control signals, said one or more second apparatus, via said first apparatus, when said third control signals and said second reference control signals equal each other.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said first apparatus remotely controls said one or more second apparatus.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterised in that said first apparatus is a set top box receiver.

4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that said one or more second apparatus include a video recorder and a television.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that said first apparatus is a video recorder.

6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that said one or more second apparatus include a set top box receiver and a television.

7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, characterised in that said first apparatus is a television.

8. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that said one or more second apparatus include a set top box receiver and a video recorder.

9. A method according to any of claims 1 to 8, characterised in that said one or more second apparatus include a sound system.

10. A method according to any of claims 1 to 9, characterised in that said one or more second apparatus include home automation apparatus.

11. A method according to any of claims 1 to 10, characterised in that said second control signals are received in response to a request from said first apparatus from said one or more second remote control devices.

12. A method according to any of claims 1 to 10, characterised in that said second control signals are received as part of a predetermined sequence from a portable storage medium.

13. A method according to claim 12, characterised in that said portable storage medium is a smartcard.

14. A method according to any of claims 1 to 10, characterised in that said second control signals are received as part of a predetermined sequence via said first apparatus's broadcast medium.

15. A method of controlling first and second remote controlled apparatus, the first apparatus being operatively responsive to first control signals associated with a first remote control device and the second apparatus being operatively responsive to second control signals associated with a second remote control device, the method comprising:

- storing said second control signals in said first apparatus;
- receiving the first control signals from the first remote control device at said first apparatus;
- accessing said stored second control signals responsive to selected ones of said first control signals; and
- transmitting said accessed second control signals to said second apparatus, wherein the first apparatus remotely controls the second apparatus responsive to selected ones of the first control signals from the first remote control device.

16. A remotely controlled apparatus, operatively responsive to first control signals, comprising:

- receiving means for receiving said first control signals from a first remote control device;
- storage means for storing second control signals associated with a second remotely controlled apparatus operatively responsive to said second control signals;
- control means for accessing said stored second control signals responsive to selected ones of said first control signals; and
- transmitting means for transmitting said accessed second control signals to said second remotely controlled apparatus, whereby the remotely controlled apparatus remotely controls the second remotely controlled apparatus.

17. The remotely controlled apparatus of claim 16, wherein said control means stores said second control signals in said storage means.

18. The remotely controlled apparatus of claim 16 or claim 17, further comprising:

- broadcast receiving means for receiving broadcast signals, wherein said second control signals are received by said broadcast receiving means.

19. The remotely controlled apparatus of claim 16 or claim 17, wherein said receiving means receives said second control signals from the second remote control device.

20. The remotely controlled apparatus of claim 14 wherein the storage means comprises a smart card.

21. A remote control system comprising:

- a first remotely controlled apparatus operationally responsive to first control signals associated with a first remote control device;
- a second remotely controlled apparatus operatively

responsive to second control signals associated with a second remote control device; wherein said first apparatus transmits said second control signals, to remotely control the second apparatus, responsive to selected ones of said first control signals.

22. The remote control system of claim 21 in which the first remotely controlled apparatus comprises the remotely controlled apparatus of any one of claims 16 to 20.

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